AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

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7. (Cancelled).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method for promoting preferential flow of an in-mold coating on a substrate comprising the steps of:

(a) forming a substrate between a pair of mold halves that are a substantially fixed distance relative to one another, said substrate having at least one area of increased dimensional thickness relative to at least one adjacent area;

(b) coating said substrate ~~on a show surface thereof~~ between said pair of mold halves which remain said fixed distance relative to one another with an in-mold coating so that said substrate area of increased dimensional thickness is preferentially coated relative to said substrate area without increased dimensional thickness.

A9 cont.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 17, wherein said ~~substrate~~ at least one adjacent area includes an in-mold coating containment flange situated about at least a portion of a perimeter of said substrate that has a dimensional thickness sufficiently incompressible to resist receiving said in-mold coating which prevents said in-mold coating from leaking into a parting line of a mold cavity defined between said pair of mold halves.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 17, wherein said at least one area of increased dimensional thickness is a runner section extending across at least a portion of said substrate which promotes flow of said in-mold coating ~~to said coated portion~~ along said runner section and portions of said substrate adjacent said runner section.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 19, wherein ~~at least one of~~ said runner ~~sections~~ section extends on said substrate from an in-mold coating injection inlet area to a predetermined end location spaced apart from said in-mold coating injection inlet area.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 17, wherein said ~~substrate~~ at least one area of increased dimensional thickness includes an in-mold coating injection inlet area, said inlet area located in an area of said substrate where an in-mold coating is injected onto said substrate, said inlet area having at least two different thicknesses to channel flow of said in-mold coating onto said substrate.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 21, wherein said inlet area is a tab which includes a thick central portion and a relatively thin outer perimeter which partially surrounds said thick central portion.

A9 cont.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for molding and selectively coating in the mold a substrate, comprising the steps of:

molding the substrate between at least two separable mold members which form a closed mold cavity therebetween at a temperature and a clamp pressure sufficient to form the substrate, said mold cavity having areas of varying thickness which allow said molded substrate to have areas of varying thickness;

injecting a suitable amount of coating into the mold cavity on a surface of the substrate while maintaining the mold members at said clamp pressure whereby said coating ~~preferentially~~ covers ~~a predetermined substrate area which due to~~ portions of said areas of varying thickness ~~has~~ that are relatively thicker and have a compressibility sufficient to accept said coating~~, and curing the coating~~ to a greater degree than portions of said areas of varying thickness that are relatively thinner or have a compressibility insufficient to accept said coating.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 23, wherein said substrate includes an in-mold coating containment flange having a compressibility insufficient to accept said coating situated about a perimeter of said substrate which prevents said in-mold coating from leaking into a parting line of a mold cavity.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 23, wherein said ~~at least one area of increased dimensional thickness is~~ portions of said areas of varying thickness that are relatively thicker and have a compressibility sufficient to accept said coating include a runner section which promotes flow of said in-mold coating ~~to~~ along said ~~coated portion~~ surface of said substrate.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 25, wherein ~~at least one of~~ said runner ~~sections~~ section extends on said substrate from an in-mold coating injection inlet area to a predetermined end location spaced apart from said inlet area.

A9 cont.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 23, wherein said ~~substrate includes~~ portions of said areas of varying thickness that are relatively thicker and have a compressibility sufficient to accept said coating include an in-mold coating injection inlet area, said inlet area located in an area of said substrate where an in-mold coating is injected onto said substrate, said inlet area having at least two different thicknesses to channel flow of said in-mold coating onto said substrate.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 27, wherein said inlet area is a tab which includes a thick central portion and a relatively thin outer perimeter which partially surrounds said thick central portion.

29. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein said area of increased dimensional thickness that is preferentially coated receives a greater amount of said in-

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mold coating as a result of said area of increased dimensional thickness compressing a greater amount than said at least one adjacent area.

30. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein said at least one adjacent area has a dimensional thickness sufficiently incompressible to resist receiving said in-mold coating.

31. (New) A method of molding a substrate and controlling flow of an in-mold coating on the molded substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a closed cavity defined between at least two mold members that remain a substantially fixed distance relative to one another such that said closed cavity has a substantially fixed volume;

injecting a molten resin into said closed cavity having said substantially fixed volume to create a molded substrate, said closed cavity having a configuration such that said molded substrate has at least one area of increased dimensional thickness relative to an adjacent area;

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injecting an in-mold coating into said closed cavity having said substantially fixed volume between said molded substrate and said mold members to in-mold coat said molded substrate; and

controlling flow of said in-mold coating on said molded substrate by said area of increased dimensional thickness compressing a greater amount than said adjacent area.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein said area of increased dimensional thickness receives said in-mold coating and said adjacent area does not receive any in-mold coating because said adjacent area has a dimensional thickness too small to be compressed sufficiently for receiving said in-mold coating.

33. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein said adjacent area is an in-mold coating containment flange that is situated about a perimeter of said molded

substrate which prevents said in-mold coating from leaking into a parting line of said closed cavity.

34. (New) A method of injection molding, in-mold coating and directing flow of an in-mold coating, the method comprising the steps of:

molding an article in a mold cavity having a substantially fixed volume, said article having thicker areas that are relatively more compressible; and

in-mold coating said article with an in-mold coating including the sub-steps of:

injecting said in-mold coating into said mold cavity having said substantially fixed volume such that said in-mold coating is interposed between said article and walls forming said mold cavity;

using said thicker areas that are relatively more compressible to direct flow of said in-mold coating on said article, said thicker areas compressing an amount sufficient to allow said in-mold coating to pass thereon, and

curing said in-mold coating onto said article.

A10 cont.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said thicker areas include a show surface of said thermoplastic article that receives said in-mold coating thereon, said show surface surrounded by a containment flange that is thinner than said show surface and is insufficiently compressible to receive said in-mold coating thereon.

36. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said thicker areas include an inlet area that distributes flow of said in-mold coating across a width of a show surface of said thermoplastic article.

37. (New) The method according to claim 36, wherein a thin area at least partially surrounds said inlet area, said thin area relatively incompressible which prevents in-mold coating from flowing thereon.

38. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said thicker areas include a runner section that directs a substantial portion of said in-mold coating across a show surface of said thermoplastic article for coating portions of said show surface that are remotely positioned relative to an injection inlet area of said in-mold coating.

39. (New) A method of in-mold coating a molded substrate comprising the steps of:

injecting a molten resin into a mold cavity having a fixed volume;

forming a molded article in said mold cavity having a show surface and an opposite surface and having at least one area of increased dimensional thickness formed between said show surface and said opposite surface;

injecting an in-mold coating into said mold cavity and onto said show surface of said molded article; and

A10 cont.

directing flow of said in-mold coating injected onto said show surface with said at least one area of increased dimensional thickness.

40. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein the step of directing flow of said in-mold coating with said at least one area of increased dimensional thickness includes compressing said at least one area of increased dimensional thickness to a greater extent than adjacent areas thereby allowing more in-mold coating to flow over said at least one area of increased dimensional thickness.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

In the drawings, Figure 1 and 3 have been amended to correct minor drawing problems. In Figure 1, lead lines of reference numerals 20 and 30 have been extended to the proper elements to which they refer. In Figure 3, reference numerals 83 and 86 (and corresponding lead lines) have been added. No new matter has been added as a result of these changes.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes